

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a pulsed neutron source having a spallation target, a window comprising: a solid/liquid interface in the spallation target, the solid/liquid interface having a liquid facing surface, the surface having smooth and non-smooth structures, the non-smooth structures disposed for maintaining gas bubbles proximate to the surface.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The window according to claim 1, further comprising bubble source means disposed for producing bubbles proximate to the surface.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The window according to claim 1, wherein the non-smooth structures include at least one protrusion arranged on the surface extending in a direction away from the surface.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The window according to claim 3, wherein the at least one protrusion extends at an angle to

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the surface thereby cooperating with flat portions of the surface so as to define a recess disposed to maintain at least one bubble proximate to the surface.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The window according to claim 2, wherein the bubble source means includes at least one gas feeding duct arranged such that its outlet is proximate to the surface.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The window according to claim 5, wherein the bubble source further includes a cavity arranged between the feeding duct and the outlet at the surface so as to define a gas bleeding hole.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The window according to claim 1, wherein the surface includes a hard material including at least one of a metal, ceramic and composite.

Claims 8-16 (cancelled).